

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 43-48 and 50-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,342,932 B1 to Terao et al. (Terao) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,118,111 to Laesser (Laesser).

The present invention in claims 43 and 55 provides for a *reflective* polarizer. If the light matches the polarization of the reflective polarizer, the light passes through the reflective polarizer to illuminate the LCD. Alternatively, if the light does not match the polarization of the reflective polarizer, the light reflects back towards the diffuser and light extracting surface. The diffuser and the light extracting surface scramble the polarization of the light and redirect the light back towards the reflective polarizer and ultimately the LCD. As such, the reflective polarizer increases the amount of light eventually used to backlight the LCD.

To the contrary, Applicants contend Laesser teaches an absorbtive polarizer 3. Light not matching the polarizer 3, in Laesser, is absorbed by the polarizer 3 not reflected. This contention is further supported due to the metalized film 8 used in Laesser. The metalized film used in Laesser, acts as a metal reflector which does not scramble polarization, but rather preserves

polarization. Laesser therefore does not teach or suggest the use of a *reflective* polarizer.

As noted by the Examiner, Terao is silent with respect to the reflective polarizer. Therefore, in light of the above arguments, the combination of Terao and Laesser cannot teach or suggest the present invention.

Further, claims 44-48 and 50-54 depend directly or indirectly from claim 43 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons given above in support of claim 43. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 43-48 and 50-55 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting, based on two co-pending applications. A Terminal Disclaimer for U.S. Application Number 10/040,855 and U.S. Application Number 09/939,493, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c), is attached hereto.

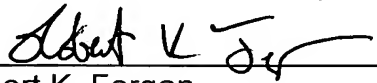
Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection as moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Robert K. Fergan
Reg. No.: 51,674
Attorney for Applicant(s)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610
(734) 302-6000